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Executive Registry
73-3223

DCI/IC 73-0648/1

June 15, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. COLBY

SUBJECT: Possible Name Change for the 40 Committee

You asked for my views on PFIAB's suggestion that it might be appropriate again to change the name of the 40 Committee in view of recent publicity.

I believe there is merit in not changing the name at this time.

Public knowledge that there is a high-level committee to exercise approval authority for covert operations offers protection from those critics who charge that CIA is running amuck, playing "dirty tricks" without approval or supervision.

If the name is changed without hint of replacement, the implication is that a policy-approval mechanism no longer exists; if the new name is announced or becomes public (as experience suggests it soon will, especially in the present climate) then it appears you are playing "Mickey Mouse."

What is important is that the 40 Committee submissions, deliberations and decisions remain classified and protected. We are dedicated to that goal and will not be deterred by keeping the name. On balance, I believe the name should be retained.

I discussed this with Dick Kennedy and he agrees.

[redacted]

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DCI/IC 73-0648/1

3 June 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Secretary, 40 Committee

The President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board suggested it might be appropriate again to change the name of the 40 Committee in view of recent publicity. Could I have your comments.

W. E. Colby

cc: ADDO

WEC:gd blp

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